

2-3 x 1 mm, connective produced beyond anther lobes, 1-1.5 mm long; anthers 2-3 mm, Carpels 7-10, hairy, styles hairy. Achenes not seen.

Fl.: April-May.

Ecology: Medium elevations, 753.5 m., secondary forests.

Distribution: INDIA: Endemic to southern Western Ghats in Kerala.

Specimens examined: Travancore, Merchiston Estate, 7.iv.1895, T.F. Bourdillon 554 (MH) (Bourdillon identified as *C. hedysarifolia* DC., Dunn (1914) annotated as *C. meyeriana* Walp. Cult. ?); T.F. Bourdillon 860 (MH, photo) (Bourdillon identified as *C. hedysarifolia* DC., Dunn (1914) annotated as *C. bourdillonii*); Merchiston Estate, 9.iv.1895, T.F. Bourdillon 554

(K) (identified as *C. gouriana* Roxb., Dunn annotated as *C. bourdillonii* Kew Bull. 181, 1914).

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32. PRESENCE OF *COMMIPHORA GILEADENSE*, FAMILY BURSERACEAE, IN RAJASTHAN

(With one text-figure)

On October 15, 1999, while I was on a biodiversity survey in and around the Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, at the border of Udaipur and Chittorgarh districts in southern Rajasthan, I noticed many plants of *Commiphora gileadense* near Kedaria Village (Udaipur district) growing naturally. This area falls under the jurisdiction of Aravalli Afforestation Project Range Bhinder of Udaipur (North) Forest Division. Local farmers told me that this species was present in the forest area and beeds (patches of private forests) of surrounding villages also. *C. gileadense* is a bushy plant, having trifoliate leaves on slender petioles. Lateral leaflets are of small size, while terminal

leaflets are generally large in most of the observed plants. The leaves of *C. wightii*, which is a rather common species in Rajasthan, do not have slender petioles (Fig. 1).

According to Brandis (1972) and Talbot (1976), *C. gileadense* is an indigenous species confined to the east side of the Nilgiris and dry parts of Sri Lanka. It is also cultivated as a hedge plant all over South India. It is reported from Poona and Khandesh area of Maharashtra (Almeida 1996).

This species is not included in the various Floras of Rajasthan (Bhandari 1990, Sharma and Tiagi 1979, Shetty and Pandey 1983, Shetty and

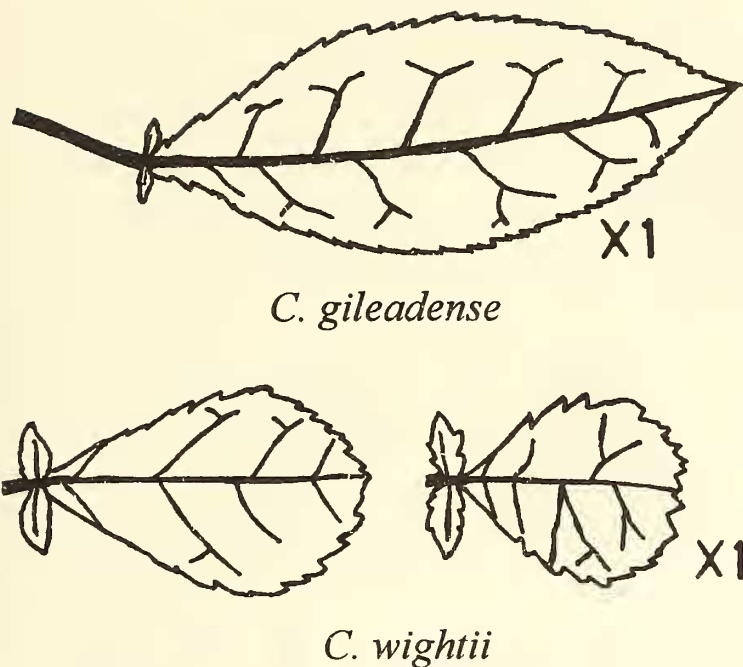


Fig 1: Leaves of *C. gileadense* and *C. wightii*

Singh 1987, 1991, 1993 and Singh 1983), hence this sighting is of special interest.

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33. *VENTILAGO BOMBAIENSIS* DALZ., RHAMNACEAE
— A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FOR TAMIL NADU

(With one text figure)

In the course of floristic exploration of Tirunelveli hills of Southern Western Ghats, the authors collected an interesting specimen of the genus *Ventilago* Gaertn. (Rhamnaceae). Critical analysis and perusal of literature confirmed it as *Ventilago bombaiensis* Dalz. (Fig. 1.). It is rare (Ramachandran and Nair 1988; Keshavamurthy and Yoganasimhan 1990; Vajravelu 1990) and endemic (Ahmedullah and Nayar 1986;

Sasidharan and Sivarajan 1996; Nayar 1996) and has so far been recorded in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra states. The occurrence of this species in Tirunelveli hills, Tamil Nadu with the evidence from FLORA OF TAMIL NADU, VOL. 1 (Nair and Henry 1983) and the present communication, therefore, forms a new distributional record for Tamil Nadu. A short description of this species is given with an